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EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

The silver repeal measure, which finally passed the Senate on the 30th of October, was concurred in by the House on November 1st. Two days later the special session of Congress came to an end, amid general sighs of relief throughout the country. The President was happy and Congressmen got home in time to exercise the highest privilege of American citizenship on the 7th of November.

Reports from many parts of the country and from many lines of business show that the condition of things is rapidly changing for the better. Confidence is quite restored, mills and factories are starting up and workmen returning to their labors. The banks are beginning to have increased calls for the money which for the past few weeks had been accumulating much beyond the usual reserves. With winter at the doors, all this is very encouraging, as much anticipated suffering is likely thus to be averted. Let people of all classes be thankful and thus add to the spirit of confidence, which is one of the chief secrets of financial prosperity.

The reading of the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the bank scandals brought on a storm in the Italian Chamber of Deputies on the 23d ult. The report was severer than had been expected on the deputies, ministers and ex-ministers implicated in the scandals. As the reading progressed the Chamber is said to have become very much like a howling and cursing mob, the ministers being violently reproached for their knowledge of and complicity in the corruptions. On the next day after a cabinet meeting, in which the situation was thoroughly discussed, the ministers all resigned. King Humbert has since consulted many leading statesmen but none of them seem anxious to take the responsibility of office. Newspapers and journalists are said to be involved in the scandal, more revelations are expected and further commotion. The revelations of the bank scandals have been all the more astounding, as Italian statesmen have heretofore been exceptionally upright and honorable in financial affairs. The love of money is still a great destroyer.

Election surprises are so common now-a-days that the result of the voting on November 7th was remarkable only because of the size of the majorities. In Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, the Republicans had it all their own way. The two chief causes of the reverse which the Democrats suffered were the delay in the Senate in dealing with the silver repeal measure and the natural tendency to attribute hard times to the party in power. The uncertainty as to coming tariff legislation also played its part. All good citizens must rejoice over the defeat of political corruption in New York, Brooklyn and Buffalo,

and over the reaction against the race-track infamy in New Jersey. The election of Judge Gary in Chicago is a signal triumph of law and order. It is greatly to be regretted that the prohibitory law of Iowa, which has practically banished the open saloon from three-fourths of the State and greatly diminished the evils of drinking in nearly all parts of the State, is endangered by the election to the State legislature of several anti-prohibition Republicans.

Chancellor von Caprivi and Emperor William have both recently received from Orleans, France, boxes containing "machines" evidently intended to destroy them. The one to the Chancellor came near accomplishing its purpose, and would have done so but for the suspicion awakened by the dropping out of gunpowder. The French embassy at Berlin has been informed of the facts, and has promised to assist in trying to find the guilty parties. The affair has no political significance, being evidently the work of German Anarchists who have been discovered in Orleans.

The Annual Convention of the National Reform Association was held November 14-16 at Allegheny, addresses being given on Divorce, The Chinese Exclusion Law, Our Danger from Infidelity, The Labor Problem, Public Education and the Christian Religion, Railroads and the Sabbath, etc. Dr. J. W. Robinson, President Scovel, Wooster, Ohio, Dr. H. L. Hastings, Anthony Comstock and Guy Maine (Chinaman) were among the speakers. Particular attention was given to the Sabbath question. The resolutions adopted declared:

That the nation is a moral person under moral law; that the supreme law for nations is the law of Christ; that the most important moral question for this nation now to settle is the Sabbath question; that the Chinese Exclusion Law, and the wrongs done to the Indian and the negro are in defiance of the law of Christ; that the conflict between capital and labor has its deepest roots in moral causes and can be settled only by the sincere acknowledgment, as final Arbitrator, of Him who labored as a carpenter and now reigns as a King; that the most serious hindrance to our industrial peace and prosperity is the drink traffic and that it is the imperative duty of civil government to wash its hands of all complicity with this traffic and to smite it with its most effective legal weapon; that our diverse and corrupt divorce laws are largely chargeable with the increase of divorces, and that the only cure for this social cancer is to be found in the acceptance by the nation of the law of Christ respecting Marriage and Divorce; that the Convention pledged itself to the defence of our Public Schools against secularism or political atheism on the one hand, and against sectarian encroachments on the other; that oaths, under cover of secrecy, of absolute obedience to any man or system are essentially disloyal; *that all disputes between nations should be settled by arbitration*; and that a suitable religious amendment to the Constitution of the United States is needed as an acknowledgment of the authority of Christ's law in the whole sphere of national life, and as an undeniable legal basis for our imperilled Christian institutions.

The entire gold product of the world for the current year will be about \$145,000,000, or \$6,000,000 more than for 1892. Of this amount the mines of the United States furnish about \$35,000,000.

NEW BOOKS.

THE NEW ERA, OR THE COMING KINGDOM. By Rev. Josiah Strong, D.D. New York: The Baker and Taylor Co. Library Edition, crown 8vo, cloth, gilt top, \$1.50. Plain cloth, 12mo, 75 cents. Paper, 35 cents.

No book that has recently come from the press has received more attention and hearty approval in Christian circles than this. The cordial reception of "The New Era" is due both to the supreme importance and seriousness of the problem which it discusses and to the vigorous, fresh and thoroughly intelligent way in which the author treats it.

The first four chapters, "The Nineteenth Century one of Preparation," "The Destiny of the Race," "The Contribution made by the three great Races of Antiquity" and "The Contribution made by the Anglo-Saxon" are not by any means the least readable portion of the book. Dr. Strong's enthusiasm reaches a high level as he describes the characteristics, the accomplishments and the providential opportunities of the Anglo-Saxon race; and justly so. We can not help thinking, however, that he overstates, in certain respects, what the Anglo-Saxons have done, or will do. It is true that this race has created the nucleus of a great civilization and has been also the chief factor in sustaining it. But the nucleus once created, it has not been wholly the assimilating power of the Anglo-Saxon which has drawn into its movements the better elements from other races. The same aspirations and tendencies towards a freer and purer civilization had long existed in the other peoples, and when the new "storm-centre" was created these ready elements gathered quickly to it. If this had not been the case, if Anglo-Saxon elements alone had worked in this country, our American civilization would have been narrower and less noble in every way than it is. When the author, who is General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance for the United States, gets on to his own proper ground, the evangelization of the world, his treatment of the various aspects of the subject is in the highest degree satisfactory and interesting. The chapter on "The Authoritative Teacher" is a most excellent restatement of the old argument from Christ's character and claims, containing some amplifications which are essentially new. The chapter on "The Two Fundamental Laws" is a statement of the way in which Christ solved the problem of individualism and socialism by the two great commandments. Individual freedom and social unity must necessarily result from a practical application of love to God and love to man. The causes of the general discontent now pervading society are carefully traced in the chapter on "Popular Discontent."

"The Problem of the Country" and "The Problem of the City" constitute two of the most instructive chapters in the book, and bring out in an almost appalling way the dangers to our civilization from the present condition and mutual relations of our rural and urban populations.

The remaining chapters, "The Separation of the Masses from the Church," "The Mission of the Church," "The Necessity of New Methods," "The Necessity of Personal Contact," "The Necessity of Co-operation," "The two great Principles applied to the two Great Problems" and "An Enthusiasm for Humanity" are a treatment of the mission of the Church and the methods of carrying it out. These chapters are worthy of the careful study of every one interested in the evangelization of the world, especially the chapters on "New Methods," "Personal Contact" and "Co-operation." If there shall be half the readiness and earnestness to carry into practice Dr. Strong's suggestions that there has been enthusiasm in accepting them as sound, the Church will soon be a humming bee-hive of earnest and united Christian workers.

LA FÉDÉRATION IBÉRIQUE. By Magalhães Lima, editor of *O Seculo*, Lisbon. Paris: Guillard, Aillaud et Cie, 96 Boulevard Montparnasse. Price, 4 francs.

This is a thoughtful and well written discussion, in French, of the question of the federation of Spain and Portugal. Mr. Lima is a pronounced Republican and thinks that Spain and Portugal should first be turned into republics; and then federated as the cantons are in Switzerland. The greatest obstacle to the federation of European States he declares to be the dynasties of Europe, which are the chief cause of the international feuds of the old world. To the solidarity of crowned heads he says must be opposed the solidarity of peoples. Democracy enlightened leads to federation and peace. After a brief survey of the political situation of the various European countries he makes a special study of the condition of Spain and Portugal, giving particular attention to the views and aims of the Republicans and Federalists. In his references to the United States he does not quite grasp the nature of the relation of our States to one another, in which *federation* and *union* are both happily combined. The book will well repay a careful reading by those interested to know the various phases of the movement for international peace.

A TRUE SON OF LIBERTY, OR THE MAN WHO WOULD NOT BE A PATRIOT. By F. T. Williams. New York: Saalfield and Fitch. Paper covers. Price, 50 cts.

This is a book written with much clearness and force. Its position is that there can be no true liberty outside of hearty surrender to the spirit of Christ and perfect obedience to his teachings. Every true son of liberty is a son of peace as well. Men who have entered into the spirit of Christ and really understand his teaching cannot under any conceivable circumstances kill their fellowmen. The story is a simple straight-forward one in which the few characters introduced stand out in bold relief. In our judgment the value of the book, which contains so much truth well-stated, is greatly injured by an unduly offensive form of statement in places, and by two or three positive errors of a very serious nature.

The Edition of the Report of the Chicago Peace Congress which we are about to publish will be limited. It would be well, therefore, for those who wish a copy of the Report to send in their order at once.